

CONTEMPT SHOWN BY HILL FOR STEEL CORPORATION DATA

Railway Magnate Chuckles
as He Discredits Smith's
Report.

With an implied contempt for "book investigations," "Jim" Hill today told the Stanley steel committee that he had no faith in the report of Commissioner of Corporations Herbert Knox Smith on the Steel Corporation. Chairman Stanley endeavored to get the veteran railroad and ore magnate to verify Mr. Smith's figures on the value of the ores leased by the Steel Corporation in the Mesaba field.

Mr. Smith's report shows that on the basis of this value the Steel trust is tremendously overcapitalized. After listening to Mr. Smith's figures, Hill leaned back in his chair, stroked his beard, chuckled, and said:

"I started to read that report, but I found that it was so far from the facts as I had found them in my experience, that I did not complete it."

The committee sat aghast at this, for a great part of their investigation has been based on the Bureau of Corporations report. Finally Congressman Gardner went after Mr. Hill to find out just what the ore magnate believed was inaccurate about the report.

"Well, I didn't read the report with the greatest care," said Hill, "but from what I did read I concluded from my knowledge of the facts that it was not accurate and I dropped it."

Mr. Gardner argued with Mr. Hill but without avail. The man who made the Mesaba range would not admit that the Federal investigators had analyzed the facts properly. Mr. Stanley interrupted to ask:

"Did you ever know of ore leasing in that range for more than 40 cents a ton?"

"I know that I've been told of other people paying 65 and 70 cents a ton," returned Hill.

Conclusions Wrong.

Finally Hill admitted that the facts in the Smith report might be true.

"So far as the facts are concerned I believe he stated the facts," he said, "but I cannot agree with his conclusions."

Mr. Gardner, declaring the matter of the utmost importance, asked Hill if he would not read the report thoroughly and point out the inaccuracies he found to the committee.

"I am not an expert," replied Hill, "and, besides, I have not the time. You can get men who have given their lives to the study of this question who know it better than I do."

Mr. Stanley read from the report of the Bureau of Corporations that the Steel Corporation owned 50 per cent of the Mesaba field.

"That's about right," said Mr. Hill. "The remainder of the ore is held by various other steel corporations."

The value of the Saulty mine, purchased by John W. Gates in 1890, occupied half an hour of the committee's time. Seven hundred thousands dollars was paid for the mine or less than 1 cent a ton. These figures Mr. Stanley read from the Smith report.

Mr. Hill agreed with the various witnesses who have told the committee that there is no more available ore in the country.

"I should think the Steel Corporation, with its \$1,500,000,000 in stocks and bonds, would be anxious to have an ore reserve that would last forty or fifty years. I would if I was in its place," he remarked.

"Then why do you suppose they canceled the lease of your ore land?"

"I think they just got scared to death. They lost their nerve. They just went white," and Hill chuckled.

"Why?" asked Stanley.

Hill was at a loss and Attorney Reed for the Steel Trust interrupted:

"Because the departments of the Government were camping on their trail."

"I do not know of anyone camping on the Steel Corporation's trail," said Mr. Stanley, sweetly. "And surely the Steel Corporation is not among the 400 the good book says 'Flee when no man pursueth.'"

Tells of Holding Company.

When Mr. Hill began his testimony Chairman Stanley questioned him as to the Lake Superior holding company which held the ore lands in the Mesaba field for the benefit of the shareholders of the Great Northern Railroad. Mr. Hill ascertained that this concern had been reorganized into the Great Northern Company.

"Was this a joint stock company?"

"No; it was a trust, pure and simple," said Mr. Hill. "It held these lands for the railroad company shareholders."

"What was the capital of the Great Northern road at that time?"

"One hundred and fifty million dollars."

"How much of this did you own?"

"One hundred thousand shares," said Mr. Hill.

"At that time wasn't this railroad stock selling at 117?"

"Sixty days after this ore was turned over did not Great Northern stock go to 200?"

"I could not say as to that. I don't remember."

Mr. Stanley took up the question of Mr. Hill's acquisitions and adjacent to the Wright and Davis tract.

"While you were acquiring these lands from individuals and from the State of Minnesota prior to the time you leased it to the Steel Corporation, you never leased at a higher royalty than 40 cents a ton, did you?" said Mr. Hill.

"That is not material," said Mr. Hill, "and I'm sure we paid more. But the royalty would not form a basis for ascertaining the value of the lands."

Leases Controlled.

Mr. Hill betrayed a remarkable ignorance of the location of ore lands in the Mesaba range.

"How far from the Mahoning mine was the mine known as the Hill mine?" asked Stanley.

"I do not know where the Hill mine is," answered his namesake. Mr. Stanley elicited that, at the time Mr. Hill leased his vast ore holding to the Steel Corporation, he and a firm called Longear & Bennett controlled leases on practically all of the ore field except what was held by various other companies. The Longear & Bennett firm entered with Hill into the lease to the Steel Corporation. No ore has been taken from the Longear & Bennett properties, but the Hill properties have been mined and royalties paid on the ore taken out.

Now, why should the Steel Corporation mine your ore and not that of Longear & Bennett? demanded Stanley.

"I could only give my opinion," said Hill, "and that would be that my mines are more convenient."

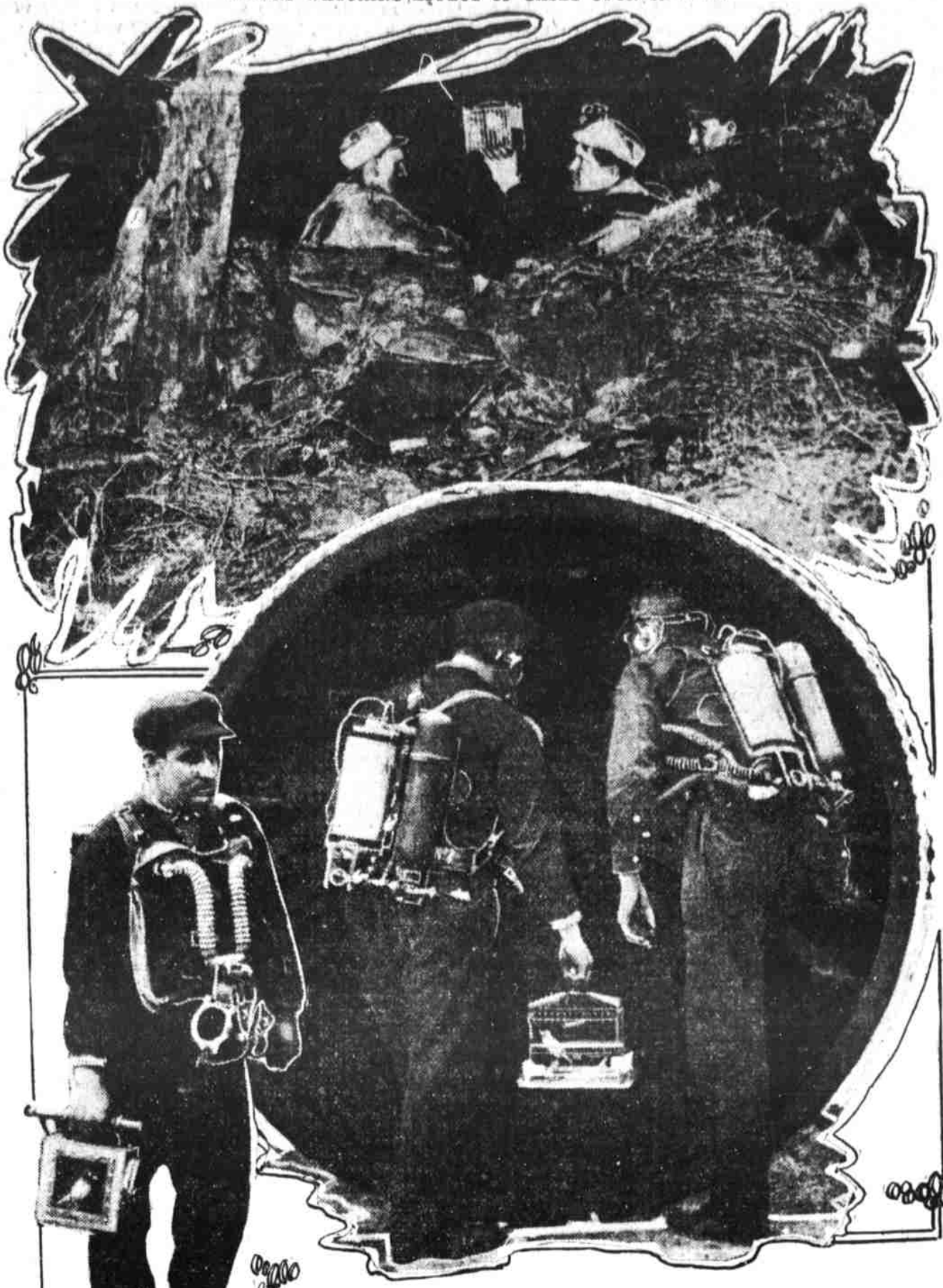
Mr. Hill and Mr. Stanley discussed details of mining operations in the Mesaba range at length.

For Concrete Town.

CHICAGO, Feb. 12.—The model of a town in concrete, in which there is not a stick of wood, and where a fire department is superfluous, is to be shown here. It is being built for Pennsylvania miners.

Using the Tiny Canary Bird in Mine Rescue Work

MINERS WATCHING EFFECT OF GASES UPON CANARY.



ENTERING SHAFT WITH BIRD CAGE.

One of the Crew Testing Value of Bird's Use Beneath Surface of Earth.

**MOB RULE IS SEEN
BY DR. WILEY, WHO
UPHOLDS E. H. GARY**

Food Expert Assails Abuses
of Capital—Money Wor-
ship Called Vice.

"I thoroughly agree with Judge Elbert H. Gary, of the Steel Corporation, that unless something is done to alleviate present conditions of unrest in the nation, the mob rule will come," was the emphatic assertion today of Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, pure food champion, sociologist, and economist. He added, however, that his viewpoint was from a different angle than that taken by the steel magnate.

"The sentiment of unrest and abhorrence, which must be allayed by educated people, comes, I think," he asserted, "from the overcapitalization of great industries; the selling of watered stock; promotion of worthless land schemes; extortions of the express, telephone, and telegraph systems; drainage of billions of money into the cities for life insurance—a considerable part of which never returns to the beneficiaries—and dozens of other schemes for deceiving and defrauding the people."

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CANARY GREAT AID IN SAVING MINERS FROM FATAL GAS

Pictures of Feathered Heroes
In Depths Received By
Government Bureau.

"Saving miners' lives by canary birds" sounded so much like nature-faking when this feat was first announced by the Bureau of Mines, that officials rejoiced today when pictures arrived showing the mine rescuers and their canary birds together in the depths of a mine.

The canary bird's use in mine rescue work is due to the fact that the birds are much more sensitive to noxious air than human beings, and will be overcome by dangerous gases seven or eight minutes before the men are overcome. Mine rescuers equipped with oxygen helmets or other respiratory apparatus might be thought not to need the warning of the birds. But comparatively few of the mine rescue party can be equipped with these oxygen helmets, and particularly so the volunteer rescuers. The oxygen helmet only lasts two hours anyhow, and weighs forty pounds. It is not brought into use until absolutely necessary, and not until after the safety zone has been passed.

Find Safety Zone.

When a mine rescue party enters a shaft the first thing done is to determine the extent of the safety zone, and in such limits are left the volunteer rescuers, while the oxygen-helmeted men plunge into the depths. It is at the borders of this safety zone that the canary bird becomes useful. During the margin of seven or eight minutes referred to above, the men can move from bad air into atmosphere absolutely safe.

Inasmuch as the Bureau of Mines is conducted by humane men, and canaries are expensive, too, the feathered friends of miners are not permitted to die because they are exposed to dangerous gases. The birds are carried into a shaft in an ordinary bird cage, but there is also carried a little oxygen receptacle into which an overcome bird can be put and kept until quite restored.

Use to Be Continued.

The necessity for taking large numbers of volunteer rescuers into a mine where an explosion has occurred was emphasized at the recent Briceville disaster, where canaries were used in the saving of five men. But there were eighty-five dead bodies in the mine and these had to be carried out as soon as possible. If only one live man went into the mine for every dead one, a party of eighty-five all told would be required.

The canary bird will continue to be used as long as there are mine disasters, according to the expectation of the bureau, and it is feared that mine disasters will continue for a long time to come, although the bureau has made steady progress in ascertaining the causes of mine explosions and in teaching miners how to prevent them and how to save themselves when they occur.

To Bury Hotel Keeper.

Funeral services for William C. Taylor, fifty years old, proprietor of the Chicago Hotel, 345 Pennsylvania avenue northwest, who died suddenly in his room last night, will be held at Zurlow's undertaking establishment, 201 East Capitol street, tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

Secretary of Interior Sails for Panama Today

Secretary of the Interior Fisher left here today for New York, to sail Wednesday noon for Panama. President Taft directed the trip, all other Cabinet officers having viewed the canal.

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